

# The Pacific Commercial Advertiser

A MORNING PAPER.

WALTER G. SMITH

EDITOR

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## HAWAII SHOULD BE FOREHANDED.

According to the New York Tribune the Italians, of whom there has been a good deal said in discussions of labor immigration for Hawaii, "are to a high degree unassimilable," as "they return in large numbers to Italy with the savings which they have accumulated abroad and send those savings back for investment. In that way Italy is materially benefited and the shipping industry is stimulated by the constant inflow and outflow of laborers." At the same time, as the Tribune shows, the enormous exodus from Italy, while at first relieving the over-populated agricultural districts, has finally reduced the labor supply there and caused a partial labor famine. More than 150,000 Italians are drawn annually to the United States, besides large numbers also to Argentina and Brazil. It is such depletion of their able-bodied populations which has caused European countries to become alive to the disadvantages to them of wholesale emigration, a fact discovered by the commission headed by Senator Dillingham which went to Europe this summer to investigate the subject, as well as a fact encountered by Hawaii's special immigration agent in Spain.

"Senator Dillingham," the Tribune says, "thinks that a large share of our present excessive immigration is due to the activities of the steamship ticket drummers, although the solicitation which they practise is forbidden by our laws. Congress ought to go further in discouraging artificially stimulated immigration. But the chief problem is still to reduce the exploitation of our labor market for the benefit of aliens not intending to become citizens and not especially fitted for citizenship, and the distribution of the labor offered to points where it may become politically as well as industrially a benefit instead of a detriment." The article had already pointed out that under the present go-as-you-please system alien labor was not distributed so as to do the greatest possible good, and the task of assimilation was doubled by the creation of inert alien colonies in the chief centers of population, where they only aggravated congestion and added to the difficulties of local administration.

There is every probability that immigration will be one important subject that Congress will not sidestep from the coming winter—the presidential year notwithstanding. It is impossible to think that President Roosevelt will avoid the responsibility of making some recommendation to Congress on the question of Japanese immigration. The report of the European commission will be presented, calling for some action as above suggested or otherwise. In view of this prospect it would be well that Hawaii's interest in the immigration question should be carefully planned in advance and properly looked after at this session.

If this Territory is to adhere to its position thus far assumed—that of claiming to be under "peculiar" conditions vital to its prosperity in the matter, then the arguments and facts supportive thereof ought timely to be marshaled into shape for the most effective use by the Delegate.

Should legislation further regulating the admission of European labor be on the carpet, as most likely will be the case, Hawaii must strive to have provisions included which will permit of direct immigration hither, in case the Territory might find it advisable to resume operations like those of the past two years in that regard.

Again, if there is going to be a reformed distribution of immigration as advocated, Hawaii ought to be "in on the deal" whatever it may be, so that should this Territory choose the alternative—or it may be the supplement—to direct immigration, of watching at the chief Atlantic ports of entrance for suitable labor settlers to bring here, it will have an equal show with any other part of the Union in the apportionment of immigrants.

Hawaii should have an immigration policy laid out beforehand, besides a campaign well-planned to fight it out at Washington. It will be too late to deliberate over what is wanted after legislation on the subject has reached the stage of debate in Congress.

## AN INTERESTING ARTICLE.

In the annual report of the Hawaii Agricultural Experiment Station there is an article on "The Economic Seaweeds of Hawaii and Their Food Value" which aside from its scientific value is intensely interesting. It is an exhaustive treatment of the subject, and yet so entertainingly written that it might easily find a place in any one of several first-class magazines.

The article is by Minnie Reed, M. S., science teacher at the Kamehameha Manual Training schools, and, as stated in the article itself, is the result of observations, study and inquiry, extending over three years. One of the suggestive thoughts presented is the reason for the large place that seaweeds occupied in the dietary of the ancient Hawaiian and by habit and custom in that of many Hawaiians of the present day. The reason is that the variety of fruits and vegetables indigenous to the islands was very limited, as was also the quantity of most of the varieties that existed. So that for all, and especially for the poorer classes, and in particular the women, who by the tabus were more restricted in their dietary than the men, the "limu" had to take the place of all green vegetables, as onions, lettuce, beets, beans, peas, etc., as well as fruits, and must have helped very much to vary the monotony of a diet of fish and poi.

It would be assumed by nearly everyone that the methods of gathering limu would probably not vary very much from those that have prevailed from time immemorial. But even this would be an erroneous assumption. Primitive as the food itself may seem, in gathering it there has lately been adopted an appliance which is an adaptation of a comparatively recently discovered fact in optics. It is only within a comparatively few years that seaside resorts have advertised glass bottomed boats as a means of viewing the wonders of the water and the bottom of the sea hold. An appliance on the principle of the glass-bottomed boat is now in use among the Hawaiians for gathering certain kinds of limu. The appliance consists of a box with a glass bottom. The limu gatherer wades out to where the limu desired is found and then peering down through the glass bottom of this box the bottom of the reef and stones on which the limu grows is plainly disclosed.

The article contains a very instructive section on methods of preparing and serving limus, which is quite as interesting in its way as attendance at a luau, at which functions limu is always served. Indeed this section of the article would give additional interest to a luau to anyone who takes an interest in such information.

Among other pieces of unexpected and curious information in the article is the fact that in places in the islands a rude kind of cultivation of limu is carried on.

Another section of the article is devoted to the value and amount of native seaweeds sold in Honolulu, and the value of seaweed imported by Orientals to Hawaii.

In the latter part of the article the writer goes into the chemical qualities and economic and commercial value of Hawaiian edible seaweeds, their use in medicine and in the arts. The whole article is a revelation of the actual importance and real value of what to most people seems a commonplace and inconsequential matter. No one who really wants to be informed on things Hawaiian should fail to read this article.

A cabled statement from San Francisco yesterday morning was that T. V. Halsey, indicted for bribery in connection with the telephone franchise, was reported to be ready to turn state's evidence, and to have intimated that Louis Glass, convicted of bribery on a second trial, was innocent and another officer guilty. Halsey is the man arrested in the Philippines who passed through Honolulu in charge of a secret service man. The cabled report just mentioned indicates a turn in the bribery prosecutions which was foreshadowed in the San Francisco Chronicle of September 21. It was there stated that the attitude of the prosecutors of the graft cases toward the outside man of the Pacific Telephone and Telegraph Company had undergone a change, which was not fully accounted for by the general sympathy for Halsey since his recent illness. District Attorney Langdon was asked, the Chronicle report says, if there had been any change in the Halsey case, and replying to that and other questions he said that if there was any change it would have to come from Halsey himself; that it would be unwise to press the Halsey case then, but no definite arrangements had been made, and that Halsey's evidence, in the event of other officers of the telephone company being put on trial, would be valuable to the prosecution but he (Langdon) had not seen it. From other sources, the report continued, the story came that negotiations were being conducted between the prosecution and Halsey which might lead to his being granted immunity on condition that he testify freely of his knowledge of the financial

methods of the telephone company and give a full recital of the consultations he might have had with other officials of the company relative to the transactions with the former Supervisors, and it was rumored that all this would be told in a trial which would create a popular sensation.

Charlie Notley is a man of much weight. He crushes every cause that he espouses.

## ADMIRAL DEWEY'S VIEWS.

Following are the Washington Star's editorial comments on its Dewey interview:

There are various and sufficient reasons why the United States should not even contemplate the sale or other disposal of the Philippine Islands, just now proposed in certain quarters as a way out of our alleged difficulties in that quarter. Our moral responsibility may be advanced. Our political embarrassment in sending the other party to such a traffic may be indicated. Our national pride in the accomplishment of a task, however difficult, may be cited. But, to meet the argument chiefly offered by those who advocate this transfer of sovereignty, it suffices to point to the immense material advantages enjoyed by the United States in its possession of the Philippines.

The whole country acknowledges the right of Admiral Dewey to speak with authority on the subject of the strategic value of the archipelago. He demonstrated that point with sufficient clearness on the 1st of May, 1898, when, a portless wanderer in Asiatic waters, he sailed into Manila bay, the enemy's very stronghold, and secured for himself one of the best possible harbors in all the eastern world. In today's issue of The Star Admiral Dewey reviews, in the course of an interview, the benefits derived by the trade and naval interests of the United States in the possession of the Philippines. His words go straight to the heart of the present discussion.

Admiral Dewey declares that Spain held the commerce of the Orient for two centuries because of her dominating strategic position in the Far Eastern waters. That she allowed her grasp to weaken, through misgovernment at home and in her colonies, is not the point of the present discussion. Matters are now differently adjusted, but with the same end that whoever holds the Philippines holds the key to the situation in that quarter of the world. The United States is envied by all the powers because of this possession. Germany, England, France or Japan would be eager to offer rich compensations for our withdrawal in the favor of any of them. Japan especially, as the admiral points out, would, by the acquisition of the Philippines, secure an impregnable line of trade and military defense stretching from the Bering Sea to the equator, covering fifty degrees of latitude. Such a cession, with Japan as beneficiary, would place that power in full control of the naval situation in the western Pacific.

This country must consider such questions in terms of foreign trade, which in turn must be measured in terms of possible warfare. It does not signify that the United States is likely to become involved in conflict, to discuss the strategic strength with which it is endowed by virtue of its sovereignty over the Philippines. Its very strength in that respect is an insurance against war. With Hawaii and the Philippines under the American flag the United States is infinitely more immune from the menace of attack upon its trade or prestige than though it lacked a base in Asiatic waters. There can be no doubt of that fact. It is recognized today as an axiom by all strategists.

The proposition to sell the islands is unthinkable, as a practical matter. It may be advanced in a spirit of buncombe and argued as an academic diversion. But it will never appeal to the good sense, the patriotism, the enlightened selfishness of the people.

## A WORD FOR WALLACH.

Editor Advertiser:—In reference to the studied insults to Wallach contained in a recent Bulletin, it seems that the jaundiced calf is doing what it blames the other party with, that is, attempting to make political capital out of the situation. While it is bad for any party to promote into the political arena the physical sufferings of a people it is much worse for those who claim such superior knowledge to imitate this course of action. While it may be intellectual superiority on the part of the Bulletin (and its best is abuse) to gratuitously insult Wallach, it seems evident that the journal in question is doing its best to outdo itself. History shows that repression and antagonism have done more to favor an innovation than mere acceptance, and it would be far better to give Wallach a show and have done with the acrimony now being shown on both sides. A love of fair play alone should convince the Bulletin that now the feeling is so strong in Wallach's favor that if the Bulletin's contention is correct and Wallach a fake, then the easiest way to find it out is to allow Wallach to proceed with the "cure." While some of the comparisons made by Wallach's supporters are grotesque in the extreme, it would seem that Hawaiians look upon him as the one at hand who can dispel the terrible apprehensions a great many of them feel. Personally, I have great doubts about Wallach's ultimate success, yet I would like to see Wallach permitted to demonstrate his ability as claimed or forever be silent if failure results.

A DEMOCRAT.

Honolulu, Oct. 7, 1907.

## NOTED ASSASSIN AT LARGE.

Koyama Rokunosuke, who attempted to assassinate Li Hung-chang, the Chinese Envoy, during the negotiations for the Shimonoeki treaty, and who has since then been detained at the Abashiri jail, in Hokkaido, under sentence of penal servitude for life, was temporarily released on August 25 and at once left for Tokio. He is still, however, under police surveillance. When the Empress Dowager died the terms of his punishment were reduced in consequence of good conduct. He will live at the house of a well known soshi named Ito Nitaro, in Majima-cho, Shitaya, Tokio.—Shanghai Mercury.

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